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RECENT LITERATURE.

Flora of Denver.¹—The author of this little book states in her prefaces that “this Flora was written with the sole aim of helping students to learn the names of the plants that grow around Denver.” She has accordingly made a simple book, in which, however, she has striven to secure a reasonable amount of scientific accuracy. In this she has succeeded very well. She has descriptions, (sometimes very short, and in sedges and grasses a mere list of names) of about 500 flowering plants, which must prove useful for the young people who study the plants of the vicinity of Denver. We understand that this is a prodrome of a more complete work to appear in the future. In it doubtless the nomenclature will be modernized and characters supplied to the families and genera.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Two Plant Catalogues.—In 1868 the Portland Society of Natural History published a Catalogue of the plants of Maine, which has been a standard list for a quarter of a century. We now have a new Catalogue² in which the results of much recent work have been incorporated. In the Catalogue proper issued in 1892 we find 1509 species and varieties of Phanerogams and 69 Pteridophytes. In the supplement these numbers are increased by 149 Phanerogams and 6 Pteridophytes. Seventy-seven names must be dropped from the original list, leaving at present a total of 1656 species and varieties. This is in truth a very good beginning toward the accomplishment of the final catalogue, of which this is but the forerunner.

The arrangement and nomenclature are ultra-conservative, and this in spite of the fact that the author recognized the propriety of changes in both. Such a course is not scientific, nor do we think it is wise. What defense can be made of this—which we find on p. 42? “While in the case of the class *Gymnorpermae* it would perhaps have been well to follow the more natural system of placing it between the *Monocotyledoneae* and the *Pteridophyta*, yet it has been thought better to follow closely the sequence adopted by Gray;” or of this in the next para-

¹ *A Popular Flora of Denver, Colorado*, by Alice Eastwood. San Francisco. Zoe Publishing Company. 1895, 57pp.

² *The Portland Catalogue of Maine Plants*, Second edition extracted from the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History, 1892, and *Supplement to the Portland Catalogue of Maine Plants*, extracted from the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History, 1895, by Mr. L. Fernald.